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Message Text

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13
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-05 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 SY-04 FBIE-00 SCCT-01 /060 W
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R 271645Z NOV 74
FM AMEMBASSY DUBLIN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6221
INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

C O N F I D E N T I A L DUBLIN 1710

"LONDON POUCH BELFAST

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINS, UK, EI
SUBJECT: SINN FEIN ON DEFENSIVE AFTER BRITISH CAMPAIGN

1. REACTION OF PROVISIONAL SINN FEIN HEADQUARTERS TO BRITISH BOMBINGS HAS BEEN EQUIVOCAL AND DEFENSIVE. ACCORDING TO PRESS, PROVO SPOKESMEN HAVE SUGGESTED THAT BRITISH BOMBINGS ARE BEING INVESTIGATED AND MAY NOT BE THEIR RESPONSIBILITY. AT SAME TIME, EVERYONE IN PUBLIC AND GOVERNMENT SEEMS TO ASSUME THAT PROVOS OR SOME GROUP CLOSE TO THEM ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR BRITISH DEATHS.

2. "IRISH TIMES" NOVEMBER 26 CARRIED STATEMENT FROM PROVISIONAL SINN FEIN ATTACKING NEW BRITISH ANTI-IRA MEASURES. "BRITAIN," SAYS STATEMENT, "IS FINALLY POLLUTING HER OWN LEGAL SYSTEM, OF WHICH SHE WAS ONCE SO PROUD; HABEAS CORPUS AND MAGNA CARTA WILL STAND SUSPENDED." STATEMENT CONTINUES ON PLANTIVE NOTE THAT SINN FEIN "DOES NOT ADVOCATE THE USE OF VIOLENCE BY ANYONE." (THIS IS PRESUMABLY BASED ON THE OLD LEGAL FICTION THAT SINN FEIN AND IRA ARE NOT CONNECTED.)

3. COMMENT: EVERYONE IN IRELAND REMEMBERS HISTORY, AND HISTORY OF PREVIOUS IRA BOMBING ATTACKS IN ENGLAND IS THAT THEY WERE OFTEN THE BEGINNING OF THE END FOR IRA CAMPAINGS. THIS MAY A
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ACCOUNT FOR ODDLY DEFENSIVE TONE OF PROVO STATEMENTS. NO SENSIBLE

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OBSERVER TODAY IS GOING TO PREDICT AN ABRUPT END TO PROVO CAMPAIGN, SINCE PAST YEARS HAVE ALREADY SHOWN THAT IT CAN BE CARRIED ON BY A FEW MEN AGAINST OVERWHELMING PUBLIC OPINION. NEVERTHELESS, IT MAY BE THAT BRITISH BOMBINGS WILL FACE PROVOS WITH SOME SORT OF INTERNAL CRISIS, EITHER BECAUSE OF STRONGER MEASURES AGAINST THEM OR BECAUSE OF INTERNAL DISSENT. WE HAVE NO INSIDE KNOWLEDGE OF THEIR OPERATIONS, BUT IT MAY BE SIGNIFICANT THAT BRITISH BOMBERS DID NOT GIVE EFFECTIVE WARNINGS TO PUBLIC, THUS OMITTING A PROVO POINT OF PRIDE.

4. A GOOD JOURNALIST WHO IS WELL ACQUAINTED WITH BELFAST TELLS US PROVO CAMPAIGN THERE IS BEING DIRECTED BY SEAMUS TWOMEY ("A MADMAN") AND KEVIN MALLON. THIS REINFORCES OTHER RUMORS THAT DUBLIN PROVO ESTABLISHMENT HAS LIMITED INFLUENCE OVER NI PROVOS. UNFORTUNATELY, ANY DISSENT IN IRA SEEMS LIKELY TO INCREASE BOMB-INGS RATHER THAN DECREASE THEM, AS THE "MADMEN" ARE THE MOST LIKELY TO ESCAPE CONTROL.

5. FOR WHAT IT IS WORTH, WE SUSPECT THAT TALK OF REINTRODUCING CAPITAL PUNISHMENT IN BRITAIN IS WELCOMED BY PROVOS, WHO LIKE NOTHING BETTER THAN PLENTY OF FRESH MARTYRS.
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